

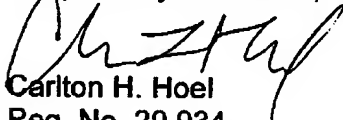
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application with claims 4-5 withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected as anticipated by MacCormack (USP 6,006,276). The Examiner pointed to the MCU as a strip.

Applicants reply that independent claim 1 has been amended to make explicit that a strip of blocks includes an entire row of blocks. MacCormack treats each MCU (which corresponds roughly to a macroblock) separately; and the superblocks of column 11, line 29 to column 12, line 9 and Figs.14-16 are downsampled to look like 8x8 blocks and not strips. Consequently, MacCormack does not suggest amended claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,



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